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December 2011 | Volume 2 | Issue 23



# Council Member

## Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

### Residents of District E,

City elections and run offs have concluded. There are now 7 new members coming to Houston City Council. 3 of them replace term-limited council members, 2 are new district seats required from this year's census, and 2 incumbents were defeated. It will be interesting to see how Mayor Parker works with these new members.

Christmas holidays are almost upon us. My staff and I will be here to serve you throughout the holidays, but city hall will be closed Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th. Additionally, city hall will be closed on January 2nd in observance of New Years. In case you do not know, we monitor our emails 24/7 and do what we can to respond to them on weekends and holidays. We are here to serve our constituents, regardless of the day of the week. Another annual tradition for me is to go out and ride with our police and fire fighters during the holidays. This gives me a chance to see what they are faced with and how they handle their work. I always come away with a strong appreciation for our police and fire personnel after those outings.

Speaking of public safety, I continue to fight to ensure that our fire department does not reduce services to the public. Fire Chief Terry Garrison has implemented a new system of responding to requests for ambulances. It is called "all hazards response", and while there are some positive aspects of it, I have been strongly critical of the program. Rather than sending an ambulance when one is requested, (in most cases) a fire truck is sent to assess the situation. If an ambulance is needed, the fire truck will request one. That has resulted in longer wait times for the public, and I have worked tirelessly to improve the new system. Mayor Parker and the fire chief are steadfast that their belief that the new system is more efficient, but I strongly disagree with them. I will continue to shine light on the problems in the new system. My priority, as is that of the fire fighters, is to provide the highest quality patient care possible. Houston is known throughout the world for its emergency services, and we do not need to be tinkering with it to save a few bucks.

As the year winds down, so does my second term in office. I was sworn into office on January 4, 2008, and will be sworn in for my final term on January 3, 2012. I appreciate the chance to serve you and look forward to doing so in my final term.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mike Sullivan

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South Sector Manager

### Houston Apartment Association

On November 15, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended the Houston Apartment Association- Good Government Committee Meeting and lunch with 50 of the HAA Members. Guest Speakers included candidates for the available Texas State Representative seats and Andy Teas gave a recap on the City election results.

### DYNAMO PLAYOFF GAME

Council Member

### Sullivan speaks to Clear Lake Governmental Affairs Group

On November 1st, Council Member Sullivan was invited to speak at the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce governmental affairs committee meeting. Council Member Sullivan spoke on topics related to the Clear Lake area, such as, expansions and happenings at Ellington Airport, various chamber events, the Houston Fire Department and provided helpful information regarding the upcoming elections. Council Member Sullivan held a Q&A session for members of the committee to voice their concerns and suggestions for the Clear Lake area.



*Joe Mayer, Lisa Holbrook, Council Member Sullivan, Cindy Herrald, and Rep. Larry Taylor.*

### Water Resources Management Committee



On November 3, 2011, Council Member Sullivan gavelled in a Water Resource Management committee meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers. Council Member Sullivan conducted the meeting to update the members and the public on the Luce Bayou Inter-Basin Transfer project and responsibilities of Coastal water Authority at Lake Houston, the update was delivered by Mark Loethen. In addition, Jun Chang gave an update on Lake Houston debris removal and all water outfalls.

### HPD Boots, Bikes and Hooves in Clear Lake

On November 15, 2011, Council Member Sullivan sent his South Sector Manager, Allie VanDeventer to join in with the combat efforts of HPD to stop home burglaries in Clear Lake. The department's Mounted Patrol, Bike Patrol and Clear Lake Patrol Division deployed to three Clear Lake neighborhoods. This three-day initiative is designed to increase HPD visibility in neighborhoods that have been experiencing a rise in home burglaries. Patrol will be encouraging citizens to report crimes and educating the community on ways to keep their homes safe.



### Groundbreaking at Houston Area Sports Camp

On November 10th, Council Member Sullivan attended the groundbreaking for the Houston Amateur Sports Camp. In June 2008, the City of Houston acquired this site allowing us to take a significant step in closing the public sports facilities deficit. This site is located at the intersection of Route 288 and Airport Boulevard, being conveniently located with easy access to downtown and urban communities. Also, since the park is located approximately 10 miles south of the new Dynamo Stadium the team has chosen this park as their permanent training home and will



*Danny Cruz and Will Bruin of the Houston Dynamo with Council Member Sullivan.*

On November 3, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended the Eastern Conference Semifinals Dynamo vs. the Philadelphia Union. Brian Ching struck the winning goal advancing Houston to the conference final for the fourth time in six years. Houston then went on to face Sporting Kansas City in the Eastern Conference championship game with the MLS Cup on the line.

### Houston Apartment Association

On November 17, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended the HAA- Annual Business meeting at the Marriott Westchase Hotel. At the event, recent NAA designates were honored and the 2012 association leadership were elected.

### SPARK Park Dedication

On November 18, 2011, Council Member Sullivan's South Sector Manager, Allie VanDeventer attended the dedication ceremony for the new SPARK Park at Clear Creek ISD's McWhirter Elementary. Through the dedication and commitment of the community, teachers, administrators and students McWhirter Elementary received new play equipment, sidewalks, backstops, soccer and basketball goals. This was the first SPARK park in Clear Creek ISD.

### Drainage Fee Meeting

On November 10th, Council Member Sullivan attended a meeting with the CLCWA in an effort to find a solution to the two conflicting drainage fee proposals. The water authority is creating a committee to meet with City of Houston officials to make another attempt to a agreement. For a news article on this topic; [Click Here.](#)

host a variety of youth and amateur sporting events on the fields.

### **Sullivan presents certificates to HFD Stations 70 & 61**

Council Member Mike Sullivan and his staff joined Fire Station 70 and crew from Fire Station 61 for dinner on November 29, 2011. Council Member Sullivan presented both stations with a certificate of appreciation for their dedication and timeless service. As of January 1, 2012, both of these stations will be redistricted to Council District D. Council Member Sullivan feels privileged to have represented such an integral component of District E.



*Council Member Sullivan with Shift D of Station 70.*

### **Dynamo Celebration 2011: A Night to Remember**

On November 15th, Council Member Sullivan attended the Dynamo Celebration at the George R. Brown Convention Center. This night was a year-end celebration to honor the club, the team, and individual achievements. Prior to the ceremony, attendees were given the opportunity to mingle with their favorite Dynamo players. Council Member Sullivan congratulated the Dynamo on a great season and looks forward to next year.



### **Reception Honoring Captain Anderson**

On November 4, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended a retirement reception at Station 72, honoring Houston Fire Department's Captain Elliott Anderson. He has provided over 30 years of commitment, courage, and duty to the citizens of Houston. Council Member Sullivan truly appreciates the Captains' dedication to the City of Houston.

dedication to the City of Houston.

### **University of Houston Regents Reception**

Council Member Sullivan and his guest, Dave Martin, attended the November 15, 2011 University of Houston Regents' reception to congratulate the newly sworn-in Regents. Both Council Member Sullivan and Martin have special interest in education and they were delighted to participate in the event. Both Sullivan and Martin have previously served as Humble ISD board members. Council Member Sullivan currently serves on the University of Houston Clear Lake President's Advisory Council. He is pursuing a B.A. in Political Science at the University of Houston Downtown.

### **Sullivan Presents Proclamation to POMC**



On November 29, 2011, Council Member Sullivan presented a proclamation for the 30th Anniversary of Parents of Murdered Children. This organization provides on-going emotional support needed to help parents and also helps with the criminal justice system. It was with sadness that Council Member Sullivan presented this proclamation, but was proud to show his support to the parents of those who

have lost loved ones. For additional information; [Click Here](#)

### **E-Recycling in Kingwood**

Council Member Sullivan visited the city's newly created E-recycling event at Kingwood Metro Transit Center on Saturday, November 5th. Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to visit with constituents that were participating in E-Recycling. This recycling event will occur on the first Saturday of every month.



*Council Member Sullivan and Hal Opperman.*

### **Reception Honoring Jerry Patterson**

On November 15, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended a reception for, Texas General Land Commissioner, Jerry Patterson. At this event, Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to visit with the Land Commissioner about the electricity contract.

### **HPOU General Meeting**

On November 3rd, Council Member Sullivan and staff attended the HPOU general meeting. At the event, many awards were given out and election results were announced. Gary Blankenship announced that a total of 2,008 officers voted in the





### **A Night to Honor Israel**

On November 28th, Council Member Sullivan attended a "Night to Honor Israel" at Congregation Beth Yeshurun. Council Member Sullivan was proud to be a part of a gathering of Christians and Jews to celebrate the return of the exiles and the rebirth of the nation of Israel after nearly 2,000 years of dispersion.

### **Dynamo Playoff Rally**

On November 16, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended the Dynamo playoff rally in front of Houston City Hall. Council Member Sullivan joined fellow Council Member Ed Gonzales, and in presenting Dynamo President Canetti with a proclamation declaring it Houston Dynamo Day in the city of Houston. The City late, illuminated City hall in Dynamo Orange, to further celebrate the Dynamo on their journey for the MLS Cup.



### **University of Houston Football Game**



*Council Member Sullivan with Dr. Renu Khator and the UH Board of Regents.*

On November 19, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended the University of Houston's last regular season game in Robertson Stadium. Council Member Sullivan took this opportunity along with fellow City Council Member James Rodriguez to present a proclamation to President Renu Khator and the UH Board of Regents, declaring the day, "University of Houston Day," in the City of Houston.

### **Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce**

On November 8th, Council Member Sullivan gave a State of the District address to the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs committee. In the address, the Council Member covered a wide range of topics including city infrastructure, redistricting, and issues related to the ongoing drought. In closing Council Member Sullivan emphasized the need to increase community involvement in the City of Houston Boards.



*Council Member Sullivan addressing the Lake Houston Area Chamber.*

### **Operation Military Salute Luncheon**

On Friday, November 4th, Council Member Sullivan proudly attended Operation Military Salute luncheon with HPOU President-Elect, Ray Hunt, at the Second Baptist Church. The lunch was a kick off to honor our Military Heroes and recognize the "Texas Heart of Service Award" Recipients. The focus of this event is to raise money for the PTSD Foundation of America. The keynote speaker for the

election which is one of the highest participation totals in the HPOU election history. He also, presented a State of the Union to the membership and covered issues that the union has faced since 2008. In closing, Mr. Blankenship announced that as of Thursday, November 3, 2011, he is resigning as president and Mr. JJ Berry will serve as interim President. Finally, the membership heard from guest speaker Dr. Elaine Bernard of the Harvard labor and worklife program. Dr. Bernard spoke on the financial situation of the U.S. and why unions are being targeted. Council Member Sullivan wants to thank Gary Blankenship for his service and dedication to HPOU and congratulates the newly elected Union officers.

### **Reception Honoring Harris County Commissioners**

On November 9, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended a reception honoring Harris County; Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack and Precinct Two Jack Morman at the La Colombe d'Or Hotel.

### **TLR Event Honoring Rep. Sarah Davis**

On November 10th, Council Member Sullivan attended the Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC honoring State Representative Sarah Davis. Representative Davis is the 2011 recipient of the TLR Civil Justice Leadership Award.

### **Burn Ban Lifted**

Mayor Annise Parker, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) and the Houston Fire Department (HFD) have announced that the temporary ban on barbecuing, grilling and smoking put in place for all City parks last September is being lifted, effective today December 5, 2011, for all but 12 city of Houston parks.

For a list of temporary ban continues in the following 12 parks. [Click Here](#)



*Council Member Sullivan and Ray Hunt.*

event was Lieutenant General William G. Boykin. Council Member Sullivan offers his deep appreciation to all military men and women.

### HFD Cadet Graduation



On November 7th, Council Member Sullivan attended the Houston Fire Department Cadet Graduation at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Twenty-five cadets graduated from their 11 week Fast Track Class 2011-B class. This class is made up of members who are Texas firefighters and a Texas Department of State Health Services EMT basic or higher. The instruction includes extensive physical preparation, testing, response simulations and live fire training. This training prepares firefighters with on hand training in order for them to ensure maximum safety for the citizens of Houston from their first day at the station.

### Houston Police Department - Blue Santa

On November 29, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended official kickoff of HPD's annual Blue Santa Christmas Program. He and local community leaders where there to lend support to the departments 30 charity that helps bring Christmas to our community's needy children. For more information; [CLICK HERE](#).



*Chief Munden, Council Member Sullivan and Chief Perales.*

### La Comida Food Drive



*Andrea Schmauss, Houston Citizen Police Academy Alumnus and Council Member Sullivan*

On November 28th, Council Member Sullivan attended the kickoff for HPD's 26th annual, "La Comida Food Drive." Since 1985 officers have been helping the hungry Latinos in Houston. Council Member Sullivan would like to thank HPD and the bussiness leaders for thier efforts.

### Heavy Trash

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind his constituents that during the month of December the city's Solid Waste Management Department will pick up junk waste. Junk waste is defined as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. Residents who receive City of Houston trash pick up service can legally put junk waste out at 6:00 p.m. the Friday before their designated pick up day. Tree waste is accepted during junk waste months. However, to ensure that your tree waste is recycled you may hold your tree waste materials until the next tree waste designated month or take it to a neighborhood depository.

For more information;  
[Click Here](#)

### E-Recycling

Kingwood Metro Center  
3210 W. Lake Houston  
Pkway  
1st Saturday of the month

Ellington Recycle Center  
Hwy 3 @Brantley Rd.  
2nd Saturday of the month

For more information, and  
accepted materials:  
[Click Here](#)

### Committee Information

Water Resource  
Management, Chair

Ethics and Council  
Governance, Chair

### 26th Annual Uptown Holiday Lighting

On Thanksgiving, Council Member Sullivan joined Houstonians and guests for the 26th Annual Uptown Holiday Lighting on Post Oak Boulevard, where more than half million twinkling lights on 80 trees are lit. This event is a family friendly event that featured holiday music by local groups, concessions, fireworks, Santa's reindeer and finally, a special appearance by Santa Claus.



*John Breeding, executive director of Uptown and Council Member Sullivan.*

### GHP - State of METRO Address

Council Member Sullivan attended the Greater Houston Partnership, Annual State of METRO address on November 9, 2011. Many GHP representatives welcomed and thanked the attendees and sponsors of the event. Mr. George Greanias, President and CEO of Harris County METRO presented a detailed overview of various modes of transportation for passengers.



*Frank Russ, Harris County METRO and Council Member Sullivan*

### News From Entergy

On November 28, 2011, Entergy Texas, Inc. (Entergy) filed an application to change electric rates with the City of Houston for customers within the city limits. The proposed rate change will impact approximately 1,500 customers in the Kingwood area 1,200 residential and 300 commercial customers.

#### WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU - THE CUSTOMER

According to the utility's application, Entergy seeks a total revenue increase of \$111.8 million annually. While the change will impact all customer classes, \$82.1 million of the increase is allocated to the residential class. If Entergy's proposed rates go into effect, the average residential customer using 1,000 kWh will experience a \$14.37, or 12.57% increase in their monthly electric bill.

#### THE CITY OF HOUSTON'S ROLE

Under State law, the City of Houston has regulatory authority over Entergy's rates, operations and services for customers within the city limits. In this rate case, the City of Houston joined a coalition of similarly situated cities with Entergy customers within their city limits. In cooperation with the coalition, the City of Houston will review Entergy's application to change electric rates in order to determine just and reasonable rates. Rate consultants have been engaged through the coalition to assist in the review and in preparing the final recommendation.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

The proposed rates were scheduled to go into effect on January 2, 2012. However, the City of Houston adopted an ordinance suspending the proposed effective date of the rate change for 90 days (from January 2 to April 1, 2012). During the suspension period, the City will review Entergy's requested rate change and take public comments on the proposed rates and Entergy customer service issues. The Houston City Council must adopt an ordinance prior to April 1, 2012, denying, approving or changing the proposed rates. If the City of Houston does not adopt an ordinance, Entergy's proposed rates will automatically go into effect.

#### YOUR ROLE AS CUSTOMER

Schedules & additional information: [Click Here](#)

**We're on the Web!**  
**See us at:**

[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)



The City strongly encourages public participation in rate case proceedings. These proceedings, such as the current Entergy Rate Case, often have a direct impact on City residents and businesses. The City encourages Entergy customers to submit comments regarding Entergy's electric customer service and proposed rate change. Submit comments to: Tina Paez, Deputy Director of Regulatory Affairs or Alisa Talley, Senior Staff Analyst, 611 Walker, 7th Floor, Houston, TX 77002 or to [tina.paez@houstontx.gov](mailto:tina.paez@houstontx.gov) or [alisa.talley@houstontx.gov](mailto:alisa.talley@houstontx.gov).

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